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KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

BISMARCK – In a difficult championship round Kindred High School snatched victory in the state Lifesmarts championship with "all the right answers" to some very challenging questions. Central Cass took second place and Pingree Buchanan came in third in the annual state competition held earlier this week.

As state champions, the Kindred students will compete in the national LifeSmarts competition to be held April 22-25, in Philadelphia. The championship team members are: Jared Breen (Captain), Kyle Bartram, Ace Boisjolie, Eric Hall, Kari Sumption, and Nancy Kummer, Coach.

"We are proud of the students and how they represented our team and school. They are excited about representing North Dakota at nationals," commented Steve Hall, Superintendent of Kindred School District, who watched as his students advanced and won. Hall will accompany the team to the nationals, along with Coach Kummer. Coached by Kummer for several years, Kindred has won three of the last five annual state championships. Kummer was keeping quiet about the secret to her teams' successes, commenting only that the students had worked hard and prepared for the competition by taking daily quizzes.

LifeSmarts Question Master Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, commented, "There are no losers in the LifeSmarts competition. All participants win because they have gained a greater understanding of the world around them and the environmental and technological issues that are shaping the future."

Twelve teams from eleven high schools competed for the chance to qualify for the national competition. The teams answered questions in six subject areas - personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities – over ten rounds before Kindred, Central Cass and Pingree Buchanan faced off in the Championship round. Kindred entered the final round only 10 points ahead. Keeping cool heads in the final round all three teams correctly answered the toughest questions of the day. Kindred maintained its lead to the end. The final score was Kindred 90, Central Cass 80, and Pingree Buchanan 40.

LifeSmarts, a consumer education competition that tests teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities, is a program of the National Consumers League. The Attorney General's office hosts the annual state competition.